

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-2-05

March 15, 2005

The following is offered in response to your request for a formal interpretation of the provisions of Section 714.2.1, of the BOCA National Building Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: Does Section 714.2.1, Exception #2, allow chimneys or vents that are used for venting products of combustion to penetrate multiple fire-resistance rated floor assemblies, thus connecting more than 2 stories, without providing a shaft?

Answer: No. Section 714.2.1, Exception #2, specifically deletes the words "vents and chimneys" in order to make a distinct difference between the two exceptions listed under Section 714.2.1.

Exception #1 allows noncombustible vents, chimneys, conduits, pipes and tubes to penetrate rated floor assemblies without a shaft provided that such penetration does not connect more than two stories. Exception #2 allows only noncombustible conduit, pipe and tubes to penetrate rated floor assemblies when connecting more than two stories.

Therefore, a shaft is required when a noncombustible chimney or vent penetrates multiple fire-resistance rated floor assemblies connecting more than two stories.